

*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director of Training

DATE: 17 December 1957

FROM : Chief/IAS/TR

SUBJECT: Results of area conference with DDP  on 11 December

25X1

25X1

2. The purpose was to promote a frank discussion of the present Area Training Program and how it should be modified as far as DDP needs are concerned. All participants consider that the meeting was an unqualified success. It brought forth a remarkably clear and free exchange of views, yet the substantial strengthening of personal relationships with the DDP may become the more important result for the long term. Both area and language instructors had an unprecedented opportunity to mingle informally with key personnel from all but a few major DDP components. A snow storm induced cancellations by persons invited from two divisions.

3. Our DDP guests unanimously assigned a high priority to the goal of thorough area competency as a requirement for the career intelligence officer. Wide agreement was also evident on a high-priority continuing need for certain types of training by the Agency, as identified below. We are now able to specify which types of area training are generally favored by the DDP. In regard to types not generally favored, we can now say which DDP components - with the exception of the two not represented - do require continuation of specific courses. A later conference, scheduled for 5 February, will be held with DDI and DDS in order to

fill out the picture. Final results will be of unique value to us in planning specific courses for fiscal year 1959. In addition, OTR will possess a firmer basis than now for long-term planning of area training staff and facilities.

25X1 4. The Americans Abroad Orientations, particularly for dependents, as well as the Current Problems Seminars and Integrated Language/Area Studies, were heavily favored by a majority of the guests. In order to facilitate enrollment of dependents, suggestions were made for help on parking and for a special dependents' day. Current Problems Seminars were given a better chance of drawing the middle and senior grade people who need them if they could be scheduled, in part but not exclusively, as luncheon or after-hours activities. Integrated Language/Area Studies were supported at both the intermediate level emphasizing language (prospective courses [redacted] and the advanced level stressing area content (present course on U.S.S.R.).

25X1 5. Only NEA voiced strong support for the survey form of course. [redacted] was unstinting in his praise of [redacted] regional surveys, particularly the National Interest of the United States in the Middle East. Need for these courses in his division is such that he will urge branch chiefs to see that appropriate personnel are released for this purpose. Some branches in WE are warm supporters of the [redacted]

25X1

25X1 6. A special dividend of the conference was the pre-natal announcement and discussion of the senior PP staff's proposals for "retreading" perhaps 200 DDP personnel for higher-priority areas over the next two and a half years. [redacted] who made the disclosure, said that the paper concerned is presently in the DD/P's hands and would shortly be forwarded to OTR for contribution of an annex. Considerable formal area training under long-term career plans is envisaged for the personnel who will be tapped for gradual transition to new areas.

7. Exceptionally thorough teamwork by the entire IAS staff played a major part in making the conference a success. Six large wall charts presenting the record of our area courses run to date were a constant aid throughout the conference, and the [redacted] is to be commended for a 100% accurate and eye-appealing job.

25X1

8. We wish to thank the DDTR for his warm support of our undertaking and his summary statement of OTR's position at the close. We are pleased to understand that he will also attend the conference on 5 February.

25X1

25X1 cc: [redacted]